DRAWER 21a

Sculptors - P

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Alfonzo Pelzer
Waterford, Michigan

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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http://archive.org/details/statuesofabrahplinc

WILLIAM F. CHURCH
Boy Scouts of America
51 W. Warren, Detroit 1, Mich.

Detroit Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
51 West Warren
Detroit 1, Michigan

ADAM STROHM
LIBRARIAN

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
DETROIT, MICH.

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS
LUCILLE B. SEED, CHIEF

July 22, 1930

Miss Ethel Henneford,
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Miss Henneford:

Your letter asking for information concerning a statue of Lincoln by St. Gaudens said to be located in Detroit has received careful attention. In so far as we have been able to ascertain, there is no St. Gaudens statue in Detroit. There is, however, the great head of Lincoln sculptured by Gutzon Borglum, which is now placed in the park surrounding the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The enclosure is a copy of an article describing this bust, which appeared in the Detroit News for May 21st, 1924.

Yours very truly,

Lucille B. Seed

Fine Arts Librarian

LBS:EM

COPY OF T I STARR'S LETTER TO MULLINS BODY COMPANY Re: PELZER STATUE

December 14, 1937

Mullins Body Company,
Salem, Ohio

Gentlemen:

You may or may not be aware that a copy of the bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln designed by Alfonso Pelzer and executed by your Company is now permanently placed at Camp Brady, Waterford, Michigan, a camp belonging to and used annually by hundreds of Boy Scouts from the Detroit Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. A photograph of the statue as it is now erected at Camp Brady accompanies this letter. The history of this particular copy and how it originally found its way to Brady is not entirely known, and to learn something more of this matter is the purpose of this letter to you.

Briefly, my knowledge of this statue is this: Several years ago while visiting Brady I found this statue knocking about one of the buildings of the camp. Little regard and no respect was shown to it. The writer is a Lincoln admirer and something of a collector and has a deep reverence for things pertaining to him and to his memory. Agitation was begun at once to permanently place the statue in a suitable out-of-doors location and permanently dedicate it as a Lincoln shrine for Boy Scouts of the Detroit Area. Eventually this was accomplished, and on July 25, 1936, the statue was placed and dedicated in the position you see it in the accompanying photograph.

Further than that concerning its history I know little, except that it is said to have been at one time in the lobby of the Packard Motor Company's office and was later relegated to a storeroom. I suspect that this took place about the time your Company gave a replica to Henry M. Leland and the same erected a short distance from the office entrance to the Lincoln Motor Company in Detroit, where it still stands. The Packard Company's copy was later donated to Camp Brady through the efforts of an employee who was, and still is, active in Detroit Scouting, but who cannot recall the dates or little else concerning the transfer. Unfortunately no record was preserved at Scout Headquarters.

And now I turn to you to complete the earlier part of this story, if you have the records available. I am particularly interested at this time to learn as much as I can for the reason that we are contemplating an important rally of Detroit Scouts at Camp Brady on February 12, next. What can you tell me of Alfonso Pelzer, the designer? I understand that the original statue was placed in Lincoln, New Jersey, in 1898. What is the story in this connection? I understand also that replicas are in Boise, Idaho; and Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, in addition to the one in front of the Lincoln plant in Detroit. Can you give me the dates these replicas were presented, by or to whom they were presen-

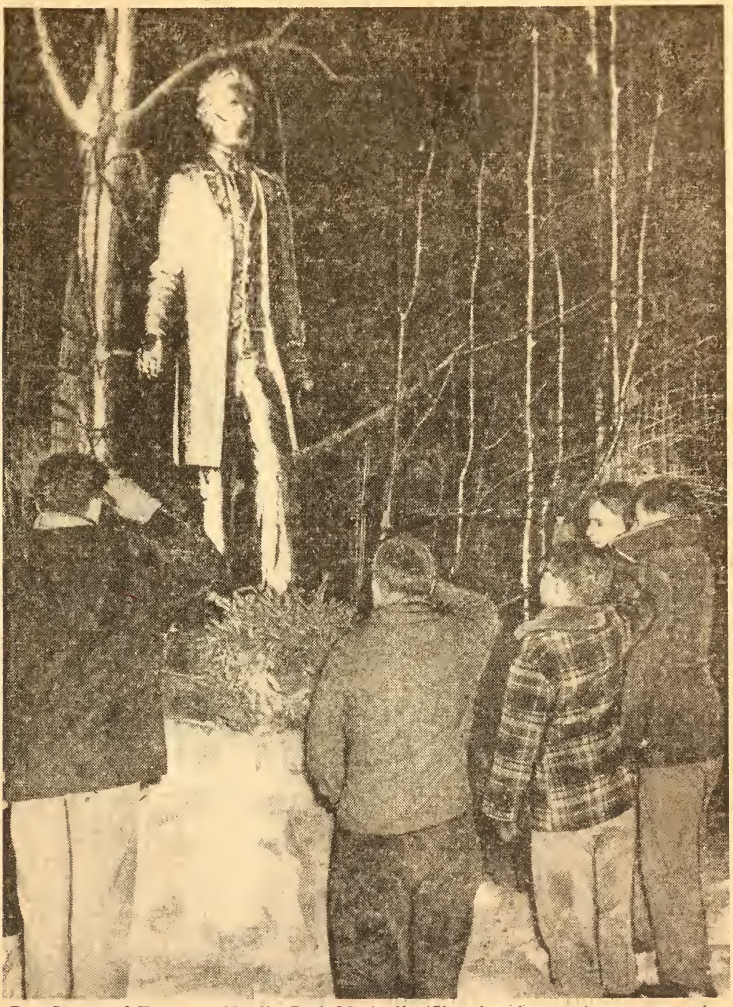
ted, and for what purpose? What is the story of our copy which formerly belonged to the Packard Motor Company, and when was it cast for them? Are there any other replicas in existence, and, if so, where? Do you people stull have the original moulds?

Whatever information you can give me in answer to any or all of these questions will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

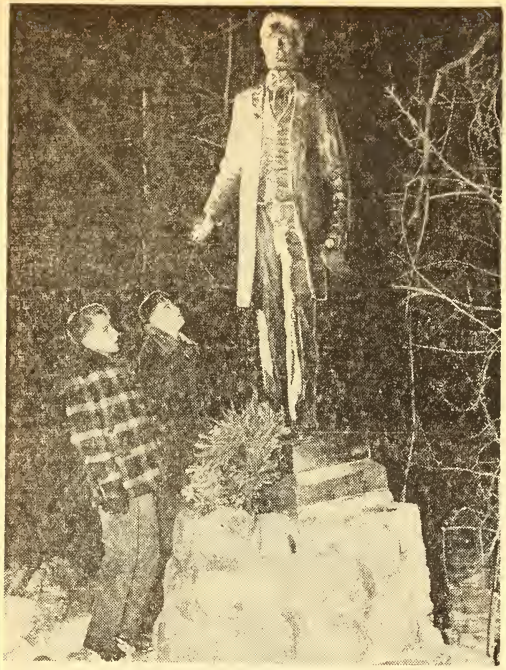
Yours very truly,

Scouts Honoring the Great Emancipator



Boy Scouts of Troop 89, Nardin Park Methodist Church, rehearse the ceremony they will conduct tonight at the statue of Abraham Lincoln at Camp Howell, Brighton. The scouts are making the annual Lincoln's Birthday pilgrimage to the camp.

Detroit News 2-12-52



DONALD SCOVILL AND ROBERT ELLIOTT VISIT SHRINE
Scouts honor Lincoln at Brighton

Schools and Boy Scouts to Recall Abe Lincoln

Although Feb. 12 still is marked in red on most calendars, the birthday of Abraham Lincoln apparently will be given only possing notice by Detroiters outside of schools.

Banks will close but City, State and Federal offices will remain open, as will nearly all businesses.

Boy Scouts will pay homage before the Lincoln statue in Charles H. Howell Scout Reservation near Brighton. This is the nation's only Scout-owned statue of Lincoln.

* * *

PREVIOUS pilgrimages were made to the Lincoln statue at the Lincoln-Mercury plant at W. Warren and Livernois.

Lincoln's birth in Hardin County, Ky., in 1809, those acts which earned him the title of "The Great Emancipator" and his assassination by John Wilkes Booth will attract the most attention in schools, most of which have planned special programs.

LINCOLN—THE EMANCIPATOR

THE ONLY BOY SCOUT-OWNED STATUE—A GIFT OF THE PACKARD MOTOR CAR COMPANY

BOY SCOUT RESERVATION
BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN

SCULPTOR
ALFONSO PELZER

LINCOLN SHRINE
BOY SCOUT
PILGRIMAGE
FEBRUARY 12

ATTENDANCE AWARD
25th ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT PILGRIMAGES 1959

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